United Nations S/2007/16

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 12 January 2007 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1646 (2005), adopted on 20 December 2005, in which the Council, in keeping with its resolution 1645 (2005), adopted on the same date, decided that the permanent members listed in article 23, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Charter should be members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission and that, in addition, the Council should select annually two of its elected members to participate in the Organizational Committee.

I therefore have the honour to inform you that following informal consultations on 11 January 2007, members of the Security Council agreed on the selection of Panama and South Africa as the two elected members of the Council to participate in the Organizational Committee for a term of one year, until the end of 2007.

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

07-20886 (E) 150107

United Nations S/2007/17

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2007
English
Original: French

Letter dated 15 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1711 (2006) of 29 September 2006 in which the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as contained in its resolutions 1565 (2004), 1592 (2005), 1596 (2005), 1621 (2005) and 1635 (2005), until 15 February 2007.

With regard to the institutional changes currently under way in my country, I would ask you to consider favourably the possibility of a technical renewal, limited in time, of the mandate of the Mission, as outlined in resolution 1711 (2006), in order to give the new Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo the necessary flexibility in the determination, together with the competent United Nations officials, of the next mandate of the Mission.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador

07-21066 (E) 170107 170107

United Nations A/61/697–S/2007/18

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 15 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical report of Israeli violations during the period from 8 to 10 January 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-21076 (E) 170107 170107

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Report

1. At 1130 hours on 8 January 2007 Israeli warplanes overflew the Bent Jbail detachment zone at moderate altitude.

At 1930 hours on the same date Israeli warplanes overflew the Hasbaiya detachment zone at moderate altitude.

At 1930 hours on the same date Israeli warplanes overflew the Tibnine detachment zone at high altitude.

At 2010 hours on the same date Israeli warplanes overflew the Bent Jbail detachment zone at moderate altitude.

2. At 1120 hours on 10 January 2007 Israeli warplanes overflew the Hasbaiya detachment zone at moderate altitude.

At 1200 hours on 9 January 2007 Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre detachment zone.

For the Director-General of the Internal Security Services
Chief of Staff
(Signed) [*Illegible*]
General Joseph al-Hajel

United Nations S/2007/19

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 40th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 6 October 2005. I also refer to Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) of 21 October 2005 in which the Council supported the establishment of an International Working Group to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of its programme and to consolidate and strengthen the existing follow-up mechanisms.

In this regard, I am forwarding the text of the communiqué issued by the International Working Group at the conclusion of its twelfth ministerial meeting, held in Abidjan on 12 January 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-21351 (E) 190107 190107

Annex

[Original: French]

Final communiqué of the twelfth ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 12 January 2007

1. The twelfth ministerial meeting of the International Working Group (IWG) was held in Abidjan on 12 January 2007 under the co-chairmanship of Rodolphe Adada, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of la Francophonie of the Congo, and Pierre Schori, special representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Côte d'Ivoire. In attendance were the Ministers of France, Ghana, Niger, the Republic of South Africa and Germany, as current President of the European Union, as well as the Special Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, the European Union Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, the High Representative for Elections in Côte d'Ivoire and the representatives of Benin, Guinea, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the African Union Commission, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the World Bank.

2. The Group heard a briefing by the Prime Minister on the state of implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1721 (2006), starting with the concrete benchmarks established by the IWG on 1 December 2006. The Group also heard a statement by the Minister of State and Secretary-General of the Forces Nouvelles, who expressed his readiness to accept the Head of State's offer for direct dialogue on condition that this dialogue serves as a mechanism to accelerate the implementation of resolution 1721 (2006). The Group further heard the reports of the High Representative for Elections and the Force Commanders of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French force (Operation Licorne).

3. Three weeks before the expiry of the deadline of 1 February, by which time the African Union and ECOWAS must re-examine the situation, in keeping with paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Group notes that there is a total stalemate, mainly owing to the refusal of certain Ivorian parties to accept and implement resolution 1721 (2006) despite the efforts made, in particular, by the Mediation Group.

4. Taking into account the proposal for direct dialogue made by the Head of State, the Group reaffirms its commitment to permanent consultations between the Ivorian parties with a view to the full implementation of resolution 1721 (2006). This direct dialogue must focus on the implementation of concrete and precise solutions, namely with regard to identification, the disarmament process, the restructuring of the armed forces, and the holding of credible elections throughout the national territory.

5. The Group expresses its deep concern that the current stalemate is prolonging the suffering of the populations, exacerbating political and social tensions and

threatening to destabilize the West African subregion. In this regard, the Group suggests the following measures to the Security Council:

(a) To urge the current chairmen of the African Union and ECOWAS to convene, as soon as possible, meetings of the main Ivorian parties in order to unblock the situation and relaunch the implementation of resolution 1721 (2006);

(b) To dispatch an ad hoc mission of the Security Council to Côte d'Ivoire in order to support the action of the African leaders, and to secure the firm commitment of the Ivorian leaders to fully implement resolution 1721 (2006).

6. The Group will hold its next meeting on 23 February 2007 in Côte d'Ivoire.

United Nations S/2007/20

Security Council

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18 January 2007

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to paragraph 4 (b) of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 October 1998 (S/1998/1016), and after consultations among the members of the Council, it was agreed to elect the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the following subsidiary bodies for the period ending 31 December 2007.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

Chairman:

Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo (South Africa)

Vice-Chairmen: Ghana and Slovakia

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda

Chairman:

Rezlan Ishar Jenie (Indonesia)

Vice-Chairman: Italy

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

Chairman:

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser (Qatar)

Vice-Chairmen: Congo and Panama

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Chairman:

Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium)

Vice-Chairmen: Ghana and Russian Federation

07-21343 (E) 180107

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

Chairman:

Ricardo Alberto Arias (Panama)

Vice-Chairmen: Peru, Qatar and South Africa

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003)

Chairman:

Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana)

Vice-Chairman: Belgium

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia

Chairman:

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser (Qatar)

Vice-Chairmen: Indonesia and South Africa

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Chairman:

Jorge Voto-Bernales (Peru)

Vice-Chairmen: Indonesia and Qatar

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Chairman:

Peter Burian (Slovakia)

Vice-Chairmen: Ghana, Indonesia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire

Chairman:

Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium)

Vice-Chairmen: Italy and South Africa

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

Chairman:

Marcello Spatafora (Italy)

Vice-Chairmen: Panama and Slovakia

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1636 (2005)

Chairman:

Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana)

Vice-Chairmen: Belgium and Slovakia

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Chairman:

Marcello Spatafora (Italy)

Vice-Chairmen: Ghana and Peru

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

Chairman:

Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium)

Vice-Chairmen: Ghana and Peru

Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

Chairman:

Rezlan Ishar Jenie (Indonesia)

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

Chairman:

Basile Ikouebe (Congo)

Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004)

Chairman:

Jorge Voto-Bernales (Peru)

Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Chairman:

Jean-Marc de La Sablière (France)

Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions

Chairman:

Peter Burian (Slovakia)

Ad hoc Committee on Mandate Review

Chairmen:

Peter Burian (Slovakia) and Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo (South Africa)

United Nations S/2007/21

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2007
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the item entitled "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409)" relating to the question of the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, should be retained on the list of items of which the Security Council is seized for the year 2007 and until such time as the dispute is resolved by peaceful means through direct negotiations or through the International Court of Justice, thereby ensuring a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the issue and achieving peace, security and regional and international stability.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdulaziz bin Nasser **Al-Shamsi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-21396 (E) 220107 220107

United Nations S/2007/22

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Qatar in December 2006 (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my responsibility following consultations with other Council members.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-21465 (E) 060207

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Qatar (December 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Qatar in December 2006, the Security Council engaged in an extensive programme of work addressing a wide range of issues on its agenda. During that month, the Council held 40 meetings, including six debates, one open debate, one private debate, four briefings and four meetings with troop-contributing countries. In addition, the Council held consultations of the whole on 23 separate occasions. The Council, in the busiest month of the year, adopted 14 resolutions and produced 11 presidential statements and one note by the President. The President also made seven statements to the press on behalf of the Council. A table of the actions taken by the Council during the presidency of Qatar is attached to the present assessment.

One of the resolutions was adopted by acclamation under a new item entitled "Tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General".

On 4 December, the President of the Council briefed the press on the work programme of the Council for December.

Through the website of the Permanent Mission of Qatar (www.qatarmission.org), the presidency provided regular updates on the programme of work as well as on activities of the Council.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar participated in the open thematic debate that the Council convened on 12 December.

Africa

Burundi

On 21 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), Nureldin Satti. He described major developments in Burundi, including the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement signed on 7 September by the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL. He also informed Council members of the termination of the mandate of ONUB on 31 December and the opening of a new United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) to continue the process of peace consolidation and coordinate the activities of the United Nations system for an initial period of one year, commencing 1 January 2007. Furthermore, he informed the Council that the Peacebuilding Commission would allocate $25 million from the Peacebuilding Fund to Burundi to promote good governance, strengthen the rule of law and ensure community recovery. Council members continued to express concern about the fragility of the security and political situation in the country.

Also on 21 December, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to ONUB. The Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing by the Acting Special Representative. A statement to the press was issued by the President of the Council.

Central African Republic

On 5 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council expressed concern over the recent deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic, aggravated by the ongoing rebellion in the north-eastern part and by instability along its borders with Chad and the Sudan.

Chad/Sudan

On 5 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the situation along the volatile Sudan-Chad border, which was exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in Darfur. The Council members expressed concern over the tension between Chad and the Sudan and urged the two States to abide fully by the obligations set out in the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006 and subsequent agreements concluded between them.

On 15 December, in connection with the situation in Chad and the Sudan, the Council members expressed their grave concern regarding the military activities in eastern Chad and strongly condemned all attempts at destabilization by force. The worsening situation in Darfur and the continuing tension between Chad and the Sudan was a matter of concern. Consequently, the President of the Council issued a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/53).

Côte d'Ivoire

On 12 December, the Council met in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNOCI, Pierre Schori.

Also on 12 December, during consultations of the whole, the Special Representative presented to the Council members the eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI (S/2006/939). In addition, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, Ambassador Adamantios Th. Vassilakis (Greece), briefed the Council on the report of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire.

On 15 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1726 (2006), extending the mandate of UNOCI and the French forces that support it until 10 January 2007. At the next formal meeting, the Council members had before them the text of a draft resolution on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/982), which was unanimously adopted as resolution 1727 (2006). In that resolution, the Council renewed the sanctions imposed by resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1643 (2005) until 31 October 2007, and also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts for six months.

At a formal meeting, on 21 December, the President of the Council read out a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/58). In the statement, the

President, inter alia, reiterated the Council's full support for the International Working Group, recalling its role as guarantor and impartial arbiter of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire; encouraged the Working Group to promote enhanced dialogue with all Ivorian parties to ensure adherence to the timeline for the road map; shared the concern of the Working Group at delays in the implementation of resolution 1721 (2006); and requested the Working Group to provide a detailed, updated timeline, by 1 February 2007 at the latest, for the implementation of the peace process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 4 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the recent successful elections held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In an exchange of views after the briefing, Council members praised the holding of the elections and underlined the positive attitude adopted by the key political actors after the announcement of the results of the presidential election. The Council members also underlined the need to provide international assistance in such areas as good governance, anti-corruption measures, developmental assistance and sustainable security sector reform. A draft presidential statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo was submitted by France and Qatar.

On 6 December, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/50) in which it congratulated Joseph Kabila on his election in the first democratic elections to be held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in more than 40 years. It also welcomed Jean-Pierre Bemba's commitment to continue to participate in politics within the framework of the institutions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 21 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

On 22 December, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1736 (2006), by which it, inter alia, authorized an increase in the military strength of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) from 1 January to 15 February 2007, when the Mission mandate was set to expire. Taking note of the Secretary-General's recommendations in his letter dated 15 November 2006 (S/2006/892), the Council members also looked forward to his proposals regarding the future mandate of MONUC as well as a review of its military strength.

Guinea-Bissau

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members were briefed by the newly appointed Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie, on recent developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the work of the United Nations Peacekeeping Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

On the same day, a statement to the press was issued by the President of the Council, in which he expressed the concern of Council members about the precarious political, security and economic conditions in Guinea-Bissau and their support for the activities of UNOGBIS.

Liberia

On 19 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed both the Liberia sanctions review and the activities of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on the basis of documents S/2006/976 and S/2006/958, respectively. The Permanent Representative of Denmark and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, briefed the Council on the latest report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

On 20 December, the Council members, at a formal meeting, unanimously adopted resolution 1731 (2006).

Sierra Leone

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, a draft resolution on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) was prepared and circulated by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Council also had before it the third report of the Secretary-General on the Office (S/2006/922). In that report, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council approve the temporary increase of the military and police components of UNIOSIL by 5 and 10 officers respectively to assist in the presidential and parliamentary polls to be held in July 2007. The Secretary-General also called for a 12-month extension of its mandate, until the end of 2007.

On 22 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed the text of a draft resolution (S/2006/1012). Later, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1734 (2006), in which it extended the mandate of UNIOSIL until 31 December 2007. The Council also recommended an increase in the number of UNIOSIL personnel for a period from 1 January to 31 October 2007 to enhance the support provided by the Office for the presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone. After the vote, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement. The representative of the Netherlands, in his capacity as Chair of the country-specific meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone, also made a statement.

Somalia

On 4 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council considered a draft resolution on Somalia (S/2006/940), which was adopted unanimously on 6 December as resolution 1725 (2006). In the resolution, which was sponsored by the Congo, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, the Council urged both parties in Somalia to resume dialogue without delay and authorized a protection and training mission to protect those involved in the dialogue, to maintain and monitor security in Baidoa and to help re-establish national security forces. Following the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania, and by the President of the Council in his capacity as the representative of Qatar.

On 22 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members voiced their deep concern about the escalating fighting and deteriorating situation in Somalia, particularly the presence of foreign forces in the country. Subsequently, the

Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation in Somalia (S/PRST/2006/59), in which it called on all parties to draw back from conflict, recommit to dialogue and immediately implement resolution 1725 (2006).

On 26 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, François Lonseny Fall, briefed the Council on the crisis in Somalia. He warned of possible regional consequences should the fighting between the Transitional Federal Government and the Union of Islamic Courts escalate. He urged a political settlement through negotiations and called on all foreign forces to leave Somalia. Subsequently, during consultations of the whole, the Council members considered the situation in Somalia against the backdrop of the current escalating fighting between Government forces and Union of Islamic Courts forces, the presence of Ethiopian troops and the adoption of resolution 1725 (2006). Until 27 December, the Council members exchanged views on a draft presidential statement presented by Qatar on the new developments in the situation in Somalia. Owing to the divergence of views among Council members, however, no presidential statement was issued.

Sudan

On 14 December, the Council, while considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, was briefed on the situation in the Sudan and Darfur by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo. In a private debate that followed the briefing, Council members exchanged views with the Prosecutor.

On 19 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council reaffirmed its deep concern about the worsening security situation in Darfur and its repercussions in the region. It also discussed a draft presidential statement on the situation in the Sudan, which was adopted (S/PRST/2006/55), calling for the immediate deployment of United Nations support packages to the African Union Mission in the Sudan and a hybrid operation in Darfur, with command and control structures and systems provided by the United Nations. In the statement, the Council also endorsed the conclusions of the high-level consultations held in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 on the situation in Darfur, as well as the communiqué of the 66th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held on 30 November in Abuja.

On 27 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members were briefed by the Secretary-General. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ahmedou Ould-Abdullah and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, also briefed Council members on their recent visit to the Sudan with the leadership in Khartoum, during which they had delivered a written message from the Secretary-General to President Omer Albashir.

The Council members deliberated on the current situation and the positive reaction of the President of the Sudan, as expressed in his letter of 23 December to the Secretary-General. The Council members expressed divergent views on the future outcome resulting from the consultations between the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan. Consequently, a statement to the press was issued, in which the members of the Council welcomed the outcome of the visit of the Special Representative to the Sudan and the commitment of the President of the Sudan to the implementation of the agreements reached in Addis Ababa and Abuja.

Great Lakes region

On 20 December, the Council discussed the situation in the Great Lakes region. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Ibrahima Fall and the First Executive Secretary of the International Great Lakes Conference secretariat, Liberata Mulamula, briefed the Council. Subsequently, the President of the Council made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/57), in which the Council, inter alia, congratulated regional leaders on the signing of the pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region and welcomed the decision to establish a regional follow-up mechanism to include a conference secretariat and establish its offices at Bujumbura. The Council also supported the extension of the mandate of the Special Representative until 31 March 2007. Moreover, the Council appealed for international assistance for the special fund for reconstruction and development in the region.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 7 December, the Council discussed the situation in Afghanistan on the basis of the report of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan (S/2006/935), which was conducted from 11 to 16 November 2006. The Council received a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Japan and Head of the mission, Kenzo Oshima. The report described both the achievements and the immense challenges facing the Government of Afghanistan. It also provided findings and recommendations, and commended the Government of Afghanistan, the international community and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for their efforts. The Council heard statements by the representatives of Afghanistan, Finland, India and Canada, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Raymond Johansen, and the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

Fiji

On 6 December, during consultations of the whole, under other matters, the representative of Japan raised the topic of the military coup that had overthrown the Government of Fiji.

On 7 December, a statement to the press was issued by the Council, in which it called for the immediate reinstatement of the country's legitimate authority. It also expressed its grave concern and urged a peaceful settlement in accordance with the country's Constitution.

Nepal

On 1 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was informed of a letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Council (S/2006/920) concerning the successful consolidation of a comprehensive peace agreement on 21 November 2006 by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). On the same day, the Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/49) welcoming the

agreement, and the commitment of both parties to transforming the existing ceasefire into a permanent peace. Moreover, the Council welcomed and expressed its support for the Secretary-General's intention to send a technical assessment mission to Nepal and to deploy an advance contingent of up to 35 monitors and 25 electoral personnel.

Europe

Cyprus

On 8 December, the Council held a meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), at which they heard a briefing by Major General Rafael Jose Barni, Commander of UNFICYP. Subsequently, the Council held consultations of the whole to consider the report of the Secretary-General on UNFICYP (S/2006/931) and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP, Michael Moller.

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council considered the text of a draft resolution (S/2006/978) submitted by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1728 (2006), by which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP until 15 June 2007 (as the current mandate expired on 15 December 2006). Before the vote, the representative of Greece made a statement.

Kosovo/Serbia

On 13 December, the Council considered, in debate, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2006/906), which covered developments in Kosovo from 15 August to 31 October 2006. The Council heard a briefing on standards implementation by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Joachim Rücker. The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Agim Çeku, attended as part of the UNMIK delegation. The Council also heard a statement by the President of the Coordination Centre of the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, Sanda Raskovic-Ivic. At the same meeting, the Council also heard statements by the representatives of Albania, Finland (on behalf of the European Union) and Ukraine.

Both the briefings and the exchange of views that followed highlighted the fact that the political situation in Kosovo was characterized by intensified focus on the future status process, which continued to be the dominating factor in the political life in Kosovo. The members of the Council expressed the need to maintain the momentum of the political process, and stated that their support, as well as that of key Member States, was essential.

Middle East

Iraq

On 5 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was informed by the acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrius Perricos, on the work of the Commission.

On 11 December, the Council had before it the Secretary-General's report pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1546 (2004) (S/2006/945), in which the Secretary-General provided an update on United Nations activities in Iraq since 1 September 2006. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, and the representative of the United States, Ambassador Jackie Wolcott Sanders, on behalf of the multinational force, on the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq.

On 15 December, the Council members noted the letter dated 4 December 2006 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General, in which he requested that $40 million of the balance in the UNMOVIC account be transferred to the account of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations. The Council members proposed that the $40 million be transferred to the Development Fund for Iraq in the light of the expressed intention of the Government of Iraq to purchase facilities near United Nations Headquarters and to renovate the current headquarters of the Mission and the residence of the Permanent Representative, taking into consideration that the residual balance in the UNMOVIC account should be sufficient to finance the Commission's activities at its present level.

Iraq/Kuwait

On 13 December, during consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General's High-level coordinator Yuli Vorontsov, presented to the Council the twenty-third report of the Secretary-General on compliance by Iraq with its obligations regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti or third-country nationals or their remains and on locating and returning the Kuwaiti national archives (S/2006/948). The Council expressed full support for his work and for his mission. A statement to the press on Iraq/Kuwait was issued by the President of the Council.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 4 December, during consultations of the whole, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the Gaza ceasefire agreement and suggested that the President of the Council should make a statement to the press welcoming the agreement on behalf of the Council. On 6 December, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it welcomed the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority establishing a mutual ceasefire in Gaza. The Council welcomed the steps taken by both sides to maintain the ceasefire and expressed hope that it would lead to a period of sustained calm. The Council members called on both sides to avoid any action which could jeopardize further progress.

On 12 December, the Council held a thematic debate at the ministerial level on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, on the theme "sustainable peace in the Middle East". The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, presided over the meeting. The comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East and the peace process during the past 10 years was before the Council (S/2006/956).

During the debate, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General, who opened the meeting. The President of the Council made a statement in his capacity as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar. The Council also heard statements by the Permanent Observer of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Israel. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Seif Ali Iddi; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr Saltanov; and the State Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, Diana Strofova, participated in the debate with representatives of the other Council members.

The Secretary-General reported to the Council that tensions in the Middle East were near breaking point and that a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict had defeated the best efforts of several generations of world leaders. He warned that the region was in a profound crisis owing to deep mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians. He stated that the failure to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the long-festering Arab-Israeli conflict remained the main underlying source of frustration and instability in the region. He called on both parties to recognize in each other the desire to resolve the conflict.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar stated that the Middle East crisis entailed grave and negative consequences for the region and the world. He noted that the myriad international resolutions, projects, plans and positions were inadequate without the existence of intrinsic political will to achieve the common objectives that could serve the interests of all parties. He underlined the need to pursue a coordinated, integrated and consistent approach to resolving the Middle East conflict, noting that the Security Council did not accord the issue of Middle East peace with the same degree of seriousness and significance that it accorded to less important issues. Indeed, the protracted conflict would continue to have dire consequences for peace and stability.

On 12 December, subsequent to the thematic debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/51), in which it expressed, inter alia, its deep concern over the situation in the Middle East and its serious ramifications for peace and security, and underlined the need to intensify efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, based on all relevant Council resolutions. It also reaffirmed the vital role of the Quartet.

The situation in the Middle East (Lebanon)

On 7 December, during consultations of the whole, a draft presidential statement on the situation in the Middle East was considered as a response to the letter dated 1 December 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (S/2006/933) containing a report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). On 11 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council considered

that report and heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and on progress in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

On 12 December, the Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to Lebanon. Subsequently, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/52), in which, inter alia, he reiterated the full support of the Council for the legitimate and democratically elected Government of Lebanon and condemned any unlawful effort to destabilize it or intervene in Lebanon's internal affairs, called for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and reaffirmed the full support of the Council for the work of UNIFIL.

On 18 December, in a briefing, the Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission, Serge Brammertz, presented to the Council his sixth report on the investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 other victims. The Council also heard statements by the representatives of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. During the informal consultations that followed, the Commissioner reported on the Commission's continued priority work in the forensic investigation of the Hariri case, focusing on the identification of the perpetrators as well as the advancement of its technical assistance in 14 other cases. He also stated that the Commission had provided technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of the assassination on 21 November 2006 of the Lebanese Minister of Industry, Pierre Gemayel.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 13 December, the Council met in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and heard a briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Lisa Buttenheim.

On the same day, during consultations of the whole, the Council noted the report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF (S/2006/938) covering the period from 10 June to 1 December 2006.

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, the President of the Council drew the attention of Council members to the text of the draft resolution contained in document S/2006/973. On the same day, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1729 (2006), in which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF until 30 June 2007, and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on the situation and progress in the implementation of resolution 338 (1973). Furthermore, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/54) highlighting the need for a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem.

Other issues

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 11 December, the representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland circulated a draft resolution on the nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 19 December, during consultations of the whole, the representative of the United Kingdom circulated a revised version of the draft resolution.

On 20 December, during consultations of the whole, the representatives of France and the United Kingdom circulated a further revision of the draft resolution.

On 23 December, the President of the Council drew attention to the text of the draft resolution contained in document S/2006/1010, submitted by France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the President of the Council, speaking in his capacity as representative of Qatar. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1737 (2006), imposing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran for proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities in the light of that country's continued failure to comply with its obligations under relevant Council resolutions and to meet the requirements of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Council also established a committee of the Security Council in this regard. By its resolution, the Council decided that the Islamic Republic of Iran should, without further delay, suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development and work on all heavy-water related projects. After the adoption of the resolution, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Japan, China, the United Republic of Tanzania and Argentina made statements in explanation of the vote. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

Tribute to Secretary-General Kofi Annan

On 22 December, the Council adopted by acclamation resolution 1733 (2006) in a tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. The Council recognized the central role that Mr. Annan had played in guiding the Organization in the discharge of his responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. The Council also recognized his sustained efforts towards finding just and lasting solutions to various disputes and conflicts around the globe, and commended the reforms that he had initiated as well as the many proposals he had made on the restructuring and strengthening of the role and functioning of the United Nations system. Following the vote, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, on behalf of Council members, expressed his deep appreciation for Mr. Annan.

Subsequently, in his final address to the Council, Mr. Annan observed that the Council's work had been strengthened over the past decade, garnering more coherence and more robust mandates to the Secretariat, thus ensuring vigorous follow-up decisions, enhanced mandates and necessary resources. Noting that many conflicts hade been peacefully resolved, he said that the ongoing tensions in the Middle East and the humanitarian suffering in Darfur were two examples of continuing crises. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General singled out Sierra Leone as both a success story and a good example of joint collaboration and achievement between the United Nations and its Member States.

General issues relating to sanctions

On 19 December, the Council considered general issues relating to sanctions on the basis of a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/2006/996). The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1730 (2006), by which it committed itself to ensuring that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions, and called upon the Secretary-General to establish a focal point within the Secretariat for receiving de-listing requests.

On 21 December, during consultations of the whole, the President drew the attention of the Council members to the text of a draft resolution contained in document S/2006/1004. Afterwards, at a formal meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council members to the report of the Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions (S/2006/997). The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1732 (2006) by which it, inter alia, welcomed the report of the Working Group and decided that it had fulfilled its mandate to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions. It took note of the best practices and methods contained in the report of the Working Group and requested the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to take note also.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 4 December, in an open debate, the Council was briefed by the outgoing Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. He briefed the Council on the current situation of civilians in a range of conflicts and urged it to ensure that appropriate and adequate resources were available to peacekeeping missions. The members of the Council expressed their gratitude and appreciation to him for his work. The President of the Council then read out a statement to the press deploring attacks on civilians during armed conflict.

On 4 December, the representatives of Denmark, France, Greece, Slovakia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed their intention to submit a draft resolution on the protection of journalists in armed conflict.

On 23 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members considered the text of a draft resolution (S/2006/1023). On the same day, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1738 (2006), by which it condemned intentional attacks against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict and called upon all parties to put an end to such practices and comply with their obligations under international law to protect civilians in armed conflicts. It also, inter alia, affirmed that it would address the issue of the protection of journalists in armed conflict strictly under the item entitled "Protection of civilians in armed conflict".

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 20 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council discussed a letter dated 18 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Council (S/2006/989). During the discussion, the Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, based on a report prepared by the Committee, with the participation of the Committee Chairman and the Executive Director of the Directorate. Subsequently, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council

(S/PRST/2006/56), in which he reaffirmed the Council's firm stance against terrorism and called upon all States to combat it, stressing the importance of resolution 1373 (2001) and the importance of cross-United Nations cooperation in counter-terrorism. The statement included the outcome of the Council's review of the Directorate.

On 22 December, during consultations of the whole, the President drew the attention of the Council members to a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America (S/2006/1013). Subsequently, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1735 (2006), by which it enhanced the identification of terrorists by tightening its listing and de-listing procedures and urged States to redouble their efforts to freeze the funds of terrorists, prevent their entry into or transit through their territories and ban the supply to them of weapons or ammunition. The Council decided that the Committee should continue to develop, adopt and apply guidelines regarding de-listing and should review its guidelines with respect to exemption requests. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Qatar made a statement.

Draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 6 December, the Council considered its draft report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2006, required under Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. It also heard an explanatory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh. The draft report was unanimously adopted by the Council, which was reflected in a note by the President of the Council (S/2006/942).

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia/International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 15 December, the Council held a debate, in which it considered the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Council was briefed by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Fausto Pocar; the Prosecutor of the Court, Carla Del Ponte; the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Erik Møse; and the Prosecutor of the Court, Hassan Bubacar Jallow. The Council members engaged in an exchange of views with them. The Council also heard statements by the Minister for Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia and by the representatives of Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

On 20 December, the Council heard briefings by the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council: César Mayoral, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and of the Committee established pursuant to

resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia; Adamantios Th. Vassilakis, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, and of the Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions; Kenzo Oshima, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1636 (2005), of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations; and Tuvako N. Manongi, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone.

Appendix

Resolutions

Date	*S/Res/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*	*Draft date*	*Sponsors*
6 December	1725 (2006)	The situation in Somalia	5579	6 December	Congo, Ghana, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America
15 December	1726 (2006)	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire: eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/939)	5591	14 December	President
15 December	1727 (2006)	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire: letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/964)	5592	14 December	President
15 December	1728 (2006)	The situation in Cyprus: report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (S/2006/931)	5593	14 December	China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America
15 December	1729 (2006)	The situation in the Middle East	5596	13 December	President
19 December	1730 (2006)	General issues relating to sanctions	5599	19 December	Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Date	*S/Res/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*	*Draft date*	*Sponsors*
20 December	1731 (2006)	The situation in Liberia: letter dated 13 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/976)	5602	19 December	President
21 December	1732 (2006)	General issues relating to sanctions	5605	21 December	President
22 December	1733 (2006)	Tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General	5607	20 December	President
22 December	1734 (2006)	The situation in Sierra Leone: third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2006/922)	5608	21 December	President
22 December	1735 (2006)	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	5609	21 December	Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America
22 December	1736 (2006)	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	5610	21 December	France
23 December	1737 (2006)	Non-proliferation	5612	23 December	France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
23 December	1738 (2006)	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	5613	22 December	President

Statements by the President

Date	*S/PRST/2006/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*
1 December	49	Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)	5576
6 December	50	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	5580
12 December	51	The situation in the Middle East: report of the Secretary-General on the Middle East	5584
12 December	52	The situation in the Middle East: letter dated 1 December 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/933)	5586
15 December	53	The situation in Chad and the Sudan	5595
15 December	54	The situation in the Middle East: report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2006/938)	5596
19 December	55	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	5598
20 December	56	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	5600
20 December	57	The situation in the Great Lakes region	5603
21 December	58	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	5606
22 December	59	The situation in Somalia	5611

Notes by the President

Date	*S/2006/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*
7 December	942	Adoption of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly	5578

Statements to the press

Date	*SC*	*Item*
4 December	8885	Protection of civilians in armed conflict
6 December	8889	Situation in the Middle East
7 December	8894	Fiji
13 December	8899	Iraq-Kuwait
15 December	8910	Guinea-Bissau
21 December	8921	Burundi
27 December	8931	Sudan

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General Assembly
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Agenda items 13 and 14
The situation in the Middle East
Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 18 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform you of the alarming number of terror attacks carried out by Palestinian terrorists operating in the Gaza Strip over the past three weeks.

From Monday, 25 December 2006, until yesterday, Wednesday, 17 January 2007, no fewer than 46 rockets were fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip at Israeli communities in the south. These rocket attacks included the launching of Qassams and mortar shells. In total, 19 rockets landed and detonated inside Israel, seriously injuring a civilian and causing damage to infrastructure and vehicles. Countless civilians were also treated for trauma and shock.

Palestinian terror over the past few months has continued in grave violation of the ceasefire agreed upon by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President Mahmoud Abbas in late November. The persistence of Palestinian terror is an outright act of provocation, threatening the viability of sustainable peace and security in our region. The Palestinians must adhere to the agreed principles of the ceasefire and spare no effort to put an end to the violence and terror against Israel.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13, "The situation in the Middle East", and 14, "Question of Palestine", and of the Security Council. An identical letter has been sent to Vitaly Churkin, President of the Council.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-21478 (E) 220107

United Nations S/2007/24

Security Council

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Letter dated 16 January 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the command of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Major-General Wolfgang Jilke of Austria as the Force Commander of UNDOF. Major-General Jilke will replace Major-General Sharma, who will relinquish the post on 17 January 2007.

I would be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-21502 (E) 220107

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Security Council

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19 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2007 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 16 January 2007 (S/2007/24) concerning your intention to appoint Major-General Wolfgang Jilke of Austria to the post of Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

07-21508 (E) 220107

United Nations S/2007/26

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 16 January 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Major-General Claudio Graziano of Italy as the Force Commander of UNIFIL. Major-General Graziano will replace Major-General Pellegrini, who will relinquish the post on 17 February 2007.

I would be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-21514 (E) 220107

United Nations S/2007/27

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2007 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 16 January 2007 (S/2007/26) concerning your intention to appoint Major-General Claudio Graziano of Italy as the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

07-21520 (E) 220107

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 76 and 80

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 19 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I wish to bring to your attention the following:

On 11 January 2007, in yet another flagrant violation of the basic principles of international law and fundamental provisions governing diplomatic and consulate affairs, the United States military forces in Iraq attacked the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Erbil (Iraq), abducted five Iranian consular officers and confiscated some documents and other properties.

This illegal act, together with the unlawful arrest and detention of some Iranian diplomats and officials by the United States forces in Baghdad a few weeks earlier, have once again put in display the amount of contempt practised by the United States of America against international law and the basic principles on which the international relations are based and operate.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns this insolent illegal act, which clearly violates the principles of "personal inviolability of consular officers" and the "inviolability of the consular premises, archives and documents" enshrined in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963).

This illegal United States act is also against numerous United Nations resolutions, including, inter alia, resolution 61/31, which strongly condemns acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, emphasizes that such acts can never be justified and urges States to take all appropriate measures at the national and international levels to prevent any such acts of violence against the missions, representatives and officials, including during a period of

07-21596 (E) 230107

armed conflict, and also urges all States to ensure, with the participation of the United Nations where appropriate, that such acts of violence are fully investigated with a view to bringing offenders to justice.

The Islamic Republic of Iran holds the United States Government fully responsible for the consequences of this unlawful act, and for the safety and security of the said consular officers. It also calls for the immediate release of the abducted consular officers, the return of the properties and the documents confiscated and for the compensation of the damages inflicted on the Islamic Republic of Iran's consular officers and premises. Moreover, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to pursue this issue at the pertinent international fora. Indeed, the said attack constitutes a matter of grave concern that requires an urgent and resolute response on the part of the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council.

In this regard, a note verbale has also been sent to the Embassy of Switzerland (the Interest Section of the United States of America) in Tehran by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 11 January 2007, an unofficial translation of which is herewith attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 76 and 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehdi **Danesh-Yazdi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

11 January 2007

Note verbale

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of Switzerland (the Interest Section of the United States of America) in Tehran, and has the honour to inform the latter that according to the information received, the United States military forces, in yet another inhumane act and in violation of international law, attacked the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Erbil at 5 a.m. on Thursday, 11 January 2007, disarmed the guards on the premises, broke down the doors into the building, beat and injured the consular officers, and thereafter illegally detained five of the Iranian consular officers, namely 1. (Mr.) Naser Bagheri, 2. (Mr.) Mousa Chegini, 3. (Mr.) Abbas Hatami Kakavand, 4. (Mr.) Hamid Askari Shokouh and 5. (Mr.) Majid Ghaemi.

It is worth mentioning that the liaison office of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been active and operating in Erbil since 1992, and that in the current (Iranian) year, based on an agreement between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, its status was officially changed into Consulate General and official note verbales were exchanged between the two countries accordingly.

Since the aforesaid consular officers enjoy immunities, the unlawful action taken by the United States forces is a blatant violation of the provisions of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and also contravenes other international legal obligations of the United States, including, inter alia, under United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

By attacking the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Erbil and causing damages, the Government of the United States has violated its international legal obligations vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran and is responsible for compensation of all the damages it has brought about.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protests against such an undiplomatic and unlawful act and calls for the immediate release of the detainees and the prosecution of the perpetrators of the said attack.

It is evident that the Government of the United States is responsible for any possible consequences of the delay in releasing the aforesaid persons.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran is requested to bring the contents of this note verbale to the attention of the respective authorities of the United States Government promptly and to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the results.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of Switzerland (the Interest Section of the United States of America)
Tehran

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Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 19 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations during the period from 8 to 14 January 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-21607 (E) 230107 240107

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Air violations

On 8 January 2007, between 0759 hours and 1040 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea in an easterly direction and circled over the southern regions. It then departed Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab.

On the same date, between 1838 hours and 1958 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Chekka in an easterly direction and circled over Chekka. They then headed south and circled over the southern regions. They then departed Lebanese airspace over Rmaich.

On 9 January 2007, between 0930 hours and 1325 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab. It headed in the direction of the Bekaa and circled over the areas of Rayak and Al-Taiba. It then headed south and departed Lebanese airspace over Kfar Kila.

On the same date, between 1025 hours and 1515 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, and circled over the South region. It then departed Lebanese airspace over Al-Naqoura.

On 10 January 2007, between 0709 hours and 1015 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, and circled over the southern regions. It then departed Lebanese airspace over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

On the same date, between 1153 hours and 1157 hours, four enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Chekka in an easterly direction up to a distance of five miles off the coast. They then returned towards the West, and departed Lebanese airspace over the sea off Chekka. They then came back and violated Lebanese airspace at the same location at 1205 hours. Two of the planes went as far as Baalbek, and the other two circled over the sea off Chekka at a distance of five miles off the coast. They then all departed Lebanese airspace at 1250 hours over the sea in the direction of Al-Naqoura.

On the same date, between 0959 hours and 1300 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Al-Naqoura in an easterly direction, and circled over the southern regions. It then departed Lebanese airspace over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

On the same date, between 1104 hours and 1410 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab in a northerly direction, and circled over the southern regions. It then departed Lebanese airspace over Al-Naqoura.

On the same date, between 1218 hours and 1300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kfar Kila in a northerly direction as far as the city of Tripoli. They circled over Tripoli, Chekka and Al-Arz, and headed east

as far as Baalbek and Al-Hermel. They then departed Lebanese airspace over the sea off Chekka.

On the same date, between 1319 hours and 1325 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Al-Damour in a southerly direction. They then departed Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab.

On the same date, between 1356 hours and 1710 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Al-Naqoura in a northerly direction, and circled over the southern regions. It then departed Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab.

On the same date, at 1814 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab in a northerly direction as far as the Bekaa, and circled over the Rayak and Al-Taiba regions. It then headed south and overflew the regions of the South. It then departed Lebanese airspace on 11 January 2007 at 0105 hours over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

On 11 January 2007, between 0759 hours and 1940 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab in a northerly direction, and circled over the regions of the South. It then departed Lebanese airspace over Rmaich.

On the same date, between 1059 hours and 1340 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Al-Naqoura in an easterly direction, and circled over the regions of the South. It then departed Lebanese airspace over Aalma al-Chaab.

At 1150 hours on 11 January 2007, Israeli warplanes overflew the occupied Shab'a farmlands at moderate altitude.

At 1400 hours on 11 January 2007, on the outskirts of the town of Aaita al-Chaab at the Khallet Warda location, an enemy Israeli force entered Lebanese territory. Its personnel proceeded to detonate an explosive device, and then withdrew at 1600 hours. On the same date Lebanese Army personnel also detonated a bomb left behind by the Israeli aggression at the same location.

Sea violations

On 12 January 2007, at 1834 hours, in the open sea off Ras al-Naqoura, an enemy Israeli military launch fired a burst of medium-weapons fire and a flare shell over the water, and shone a spotlight in the direction of separation buoys for a brief period.

Field violations

On 13 January 2007, between 1815 hours and 1900 hours, enemy Israeli forces shone a spotlight from their Radar outpost (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands) in the direction of Lebanese territory at the Wadi Jan'am location (outside the town of Shab'a).

On 14 January 2007, between 2145 hours and 2200 hours, at the Khallet Warda location (opposite Aaita al-Chaab), an enemy Israeli patrol proceeded to shine spotlights in the direction of the town's forests and the area surrounding the Army checkpoint at Al-Qaouzah junction.

Israeli activities

On 9 January 2007, between 1605 hours and 1630 hours, enemy Israeli forces proceeded to strafe the area around its outpost at Fashkul (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands) with medium and light machine guns.

On the same date, between 1940 hours and 2020 hours, the sound of enemy Israeli forces armoured vehicle movements was heard between the Ramta and Fashkul outposts (inside the occupied Sha'ba farmlands). The aforementioned forces also strafed the area around their outpost in Fashkul intermittently with medium weapons.

On 10 January 2007, between 2120 hours and 2200 hours, an enemy Israeli helicopter overflew the Ruwaysat al-'Alam and Sammaqa outposts (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands).

On 11 January 2007, at 1200 hours at the Khallet Warda location (between Aaita al-Chaab and Ramiye), 15 enemy Israeli forces personnel crossed several metres over the technical line without crossing the Blue Line. They detonated a bomb at 1545.

On the same date between 1050 hours and 1620 hours, enemy Israeli forces fired several rounds from the Sammaqa, Ramta and Fashkul outposts (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands).

On the same date, between 1630 hours and 2010 hours, over the Jabal al-Tayyarat outpost in occupied Palestinian territory (across from the town of Yaroun), enemy Israeli forces proceeded to launch six flare bombs and open fire with light weapons.

On 12 January 2007, between 1045 hours and 1230 hours, two enemy Israeli military helicopters overflew the Ruwaysat al-'Alam and Ramta outposts (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands).

On the same date, between 0745 hours and 0930 hours, enemy Israeli armoured vehicle movements were observed between the Ramta and Sammaqa outposts (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands).

On the same date, between 1930 hours and 2040 hours, an enemy Israeli helicopter and a reconnaissance aircraft overflew the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

On 14 January 2007, at 1200 hours, the sound of several explosions was heard inside Palestinian territory across from Ras al-Naqoura.

On the same date, between 1705 hours and 1815 hours, enemy Israeli forces strafed the area around its outpost in Ramta (inside the occupied Shab'a farmlands).

United Nations S/2007/30

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 January 2007

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Welcoming the signing on 21 November by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the stated commitment of both parties to transforming the existing ceasefire into a permanent and sustainable peace and commending the steps taken to date to implement the Agreement,

Taking note of the request of the parties for United Nations assistance in implementing key aspects of the Agreement, in particular monitoring of arrangements relating to the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides and election monitoring,

Recalling the letter of the Secretary-General of 22 November 2006 (S/2006/920) and the statement of its President of 1 December (S/PRST/2006/49), and welcoming progress made in dispatching an advance deployment of monitors and electoral personnel to Nepal,

Recognizing the strong desire of the Nepalese people for peace and the restoration of democracy and the importance in this respect of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and encouraging the parties to maintain that momentum,

Recognizing the need to pay special attention to the needs of women, children and traditionally marginalized groups in the peace process, as mentioned in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's report of 9 January 2007 (S/2007/7) and having considered its recommendations, which are based on the request of the signatories of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the findings of the technical assessment mission,

Expressing its readiness to support the peace process in Nepal in the timely and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Nepal and its ownership of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative, the United Nations Country Team including the Office of

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the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations representatives in Nepal,

1. *Decides* to establish a United Nations political mission in Nepal (UNMIN) under the leadership of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and with the following mandate based on the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report:

(a) To monitor the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides, in line with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;

(b) To assist the parties through a Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee in implementing their agreement on the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides, as provided for in that agreement;

(c) To assist in the monitoring of the ceasefire arrangements;

(d) To provide technical support for the planning, preparation and conduct of the election of a Constituent Assembly in a free and fair atmosphere, in consultation with the parties;

(e) To provide a small team of electoral monitors to review all technical aspects of the electoral process, and report on the conduct of the election;

2. *Decides* that the mandate of UNMIN, in view of the particular circumstances, will be for a period of 12 months from the date of this resolution, and expresses its intention to terminate or further extend that mandate upon request of the Government of Nepal, taking into consideration the Secretary-General's expectation that UNMIN will be a focussed mission of limited duration;

3. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal that his Special Representative will coordinate the United Nations effort in Nepal in support of the peace process, in close consultation with the relevant parties in Nepal and in close cooperation with other international actors;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of progress in implementing this resolution;

5. *Requests* the parties in Nepal to take the necessary steps to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of UNMIN and associated personnel in executing the tasks defined in the mandate;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2007/31

Security Council

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22 January 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), I have the honour to convey to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council of the United Nations for the month of January 2007, the concerns of the Movement regarding the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other organs through addressing issues which traditionally fall within the competence of the latter organs.

Regrettably, despite the several timely letters addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement transmitting NAM's principled positions on this very important issue, two permanent members of the Security Council decided to put to a vote, on Friday, 12 January 2007, a draft resolution on the situation in Myanmar, which was finally not adopted by the Council.

The Non-Aligned Movement stresses that while Member States of the United Nations have conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Article 24 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations, in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Security Council acts on their behalf.

The Movement underscores the need for States Members of the United Nations to fully respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the United Nations and to maintain the balance among these organs within their respective Charter-based functions and powers. In this context, the Movement cautions once again about the danger of encroachment by the Council on issues which clearly fall within the functions and powers of other principal organs of the United Nations and their subsidiary bodies.

In view of the above-mentioned considerations, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates that the decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State of the United Nations on any issue, such as human rights, that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter.

In this regard, the Movement once again urges the Security Council to uphold the primacy of and respect for the Charter in connection with its functions and powers.

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I would like to request, Mr. President, that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

United Nations A/61/708–S/2007/32

General Assembly
Security Council

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22 January 2007
English
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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 100
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba concerning the fact that on 11 January 2007, the Government of the United States, which for over 18 months has been protecting the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, indicted him only on charges of naturalization fraud and making false statements in a naturalization proceeding.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba hopes that this indictment of the terrorist Posada Carriles for minor immigration offences will not be used as a smokescreen to allow him to go unpunished for the serious crime of terrorism, or as a pretext for continuing to ignore the request for his extradition submitted on 15 June 2005 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for his part in the bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft, to which no answer has yet been received.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Diaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-21660 (E) 230107 240107

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

15 January 2007

The international press has reported that on 11 January 2007 the Government of the United States of America, which for over 18 months has been protecting the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, was forced to indict him on charges of naturalization fraud and making false statements in a naturalization proceeding.

The United States Government was forced to admit that our Commander-in-Chief was correct when, in April 2005, while commenting on information published in the Mexican newspapers *Que Quintana Roo se Entere* and *Por Esto*, he repeatedly asserted that for nearly a month Posada Carriles had resided, with complete impunity, in United States territory, to which he had travelled on the vessel *Santrina* after having been picked up in Isla Mujeres by Santiago Alvarez Fernández-Magriña and other terrorists.

When the United States Government was forced to arrest him on 17 May 2005, after having allowed him to reside illegally in United States territory for two months, the terrorist wove a web of lies to the effect that he had entered the United States over land via the Mexican city of Matamoros, that he had not been in Cancún or Isla Mujeres, that while travelling through Mexico he had never seen the vessel *Santrina*, and that he had never seen Santiago Alvarez or any of the other terrorists who, as revealed by our Commander-in-Chief, accompanied him on his journey from Mexico to the United States.

In the indictment of 11 January 2007, the United States Government alleges that Posada was guilty of fraud and lying, since, "in fact, he entered the United States ... by sea aboard the motor vessel 'Santrina' ... travelled to Cancun and Isla Mujeres ... boarded that vessel in Mexico ... and travelled thereon to the United States" and Santiago Alvarez, Osvaldo Mitat, Rubén López Castro and José Pujol "were with him aboard the motor vessel 'Santrina' during his passage aboard that motor vessel from Mexico to the United States".

The United States Government often forgets that the truth has always been a key weapon of the Cuban Revolution. Now, almost two years later, it has had no choice but to admit this.

The Administration of Mexico's President Vicente Fox, in response to Cuba's request that it conduct an in-depth investigation of Posada Carriles's passage through that country, officially informed our Government on 25 May 2005 that it had no record of the terrorist's entry into Mexican territory. It also indicated that the vessel *Santrina* had arrived in Isla Mujeres on 14 March 2005 and that the vessel, after refuelling, had left that locality with the same crew members with whom it had arrived; Luis Posada Carriles, it said, was not among them.

In its 11 January indictment the United States Government makes no mention of terrorism. That Government has full knowledge and evidence of the countless

acts of terrorism committed by Posada Carriles, including the downing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in 1976 and acts of terrorism perpetrated against Cuban hotels in 1997, one of which took the life of Fabio Di Celmo, a young Italian tourist.

For the United States Government, the only course of action consistent with the international treaties on terrorism to which it is a party and with the provisions of its own laws would have been to acknowledge from the outset that Luis Posada Carriles is a terrorist and to indict him on charges of terrorism. That would have avoided the lengthy immigration proceedings in El Paso, whose only objective was to protect him in order to prevent the disclosure of the many secrets he knows with regard to the imperial Power's covert operations, illegal acts and links with the anti-Cuban mafia, especially during the time when the father of the current President of the United States was Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes that this indictment of the terrorist Posada Carriles for minor immigration offences will not be used as a smokescreen to allow him to go unpunished for the serious crime of terrorism, or as a pretext for continuing to ignore the request for his extradition submitted on 15 June 2005 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for his part in the bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft, to which no answer has yet been received.

The next test for the Administration of President Bush will come on 1 February, when it will have to respond to Judge Philip Martinez's order that it justify the continued detention of Posada Carriles, in accordance with section 412 of the USA PATRIOT Act; to that end, it will have to acknowledge that his release "will threaten the national security of the United States or the safety of the community or any person". The moment of truth has arrived. The victims' relatives are demanding justice. The Cuban people share their grief and fully support them. Now we shall see what this President and self-appointed "world leader of the war on terror" will do.

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Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1320 (2000) of 15 September 2000 and provides an update on developments since my special report of 15 December 2006 (S/2006/992). The report also describes the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the current mandate of which expires on 31 January 2007.

II. Status of the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas and cooperation with the parties

2. The military situation in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas has remained tense and volatile, since over 2,000 troops of the Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF), along with tanks, artillery and air defence equipment, began entering the Zone in Sector West in October 2006. These troops have reportedly remained in the general areas of Maileba and Om Hajer. Since then, further infiltration of EDF troops has continued in Sector West and has also extended to Sector Centre. On 22 December, UNMEE reported an incursion into the Zone in Sector Centre by approximately 350 Eritrean militia suspected to be EDF soldiers, through the Keskese checkpoint, heading towards Senafe. Since then, there has reportedly been a significant increase in the activities of armed Eritrean personnel in Sector Centre, in the area of Tsorena, close to the southern boundary of the Zone, and the presence of over 400 additional Eritrean soldiers in the Sector has been observed.

3. Eritrea has further increased its restrictions on UNMEE patrols, especially in Sectors West and Centre, where the Mission is prevented from monitoring the activities of Eritrean armed personnel. Also, between 6 and 8 January, UNMEE vehicles were not allowed to travel between Asmara and Adigrat across a checkpoint located at the Serha post, in Sector Centre. All these restrictions represent a serious violation of the Agreement of 18 June 2000 on Cessation of Hostilities and the Protocol concluded between Eritrea and UNMEE on 17 April 2001.

4. On the Ethiopian side, since 20 October, the Ethiopian Armed Forces (EAF) have also increased their presence with the deployment of 21 artillery guns and four 120 mm mortars in the area of Rawiyan, in the adjacent area, in Sector West. UNMEE has also observed a forward deployment of artillery by the EAF in a number of places, including about 16 artillery guns in the vicinity of Adi Takalo

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(in Sector West); and an unspecified number of guns at Rama and Kafna (in Sector Centre).

5. On 28 October 2006, the Ethiopian authorities reported to UNMEE that one of their soldiers had entered the Temporary Security Zone without authorization, in Subsector East. Soldiers from his unit who were sent in his pursuit also entered the Zone and were allegedly fired upon by Eritrean militia, resulting in injury to one of the Ethiopians. The incident was confirmed by the Eritrean authorities, who presented to UNMEE the soldier who claimed to have defected and stated that another Ethiopian soldier had been killed during the exchange of fire. The Ethiopian side subsequently stated that there were no soldiers missing from their ranks.

6. The EAF also reported that on 21 November 2006, approximately 150 EDF personnel penetrated an EAF post and civilian farmhouses in the vicinity of the Terawar primary school in Sector Centre. The EAF further reported to UNMEE that, on 7 December, approximately 30 armed Eritrean soldiers had crossed the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone and fired at an Ethiopian observation post near Ksadhanse village, in Sector Centre close to the Mereb Bridge. Ethiopian soldiers reportedly returned fire. While both sides claimed that they had inflicted casualties, neither has recognized the claim of the other. On 4 January, a firing incident occurred at an Ethiopian military post located at Adi Hanna, in the adjacent area of Sector West. A local Ethiopian commander alleged that a number of Eritrean soldiers had attacked his position but were pushed back after a short fight. The Eritrean militia at the nearest camp confirmed that they had heard the firing but could not determine its source.

7. UNMEE is still investigating the above incidents, but is not in a position to confirm the reports, mainly owing to the restrictions on its movements imposed by Eritrea and the absence of observation posts in the concerned areas.

Freedom of movement

8. As I mentioned in paragraph 3, during the reporting period, UNMEE patrols were subjected to additional restrictions on their freedom of movement, as well as denials of access, in many areas of Sectors West and Centre, both inside the Temporary Security Zone and in the adjacent areas, especially after Eritrea's induction of troops in Sector West. In addition, Eritrea has closed the bridge at Humera, which is critical for UNMEE's cross-border movement in Sector West and, in particular, the contacts and logistical support between its personnel deployed at Om Hajer, inside the Zone and Humera, in the adjacent area on the Ethiopian side.

9. On 16 December, an UNMEE patrol from Adi Quala was stopped at gunpoint, threatened and temporarily detained by Eritrean armed militia inside the Temporary Security Zone in Sector West. UNMEE has strongly protested the incident with the Eritrean authorities, who agreed to look into the matter.

Military Coordination Commission

10. The 38th meeting of the Military Coordination Commission has still not been held, owing to differences between the parties, as was reported in the special report of 15 December (S/2006/992). UNMEE, however, continued to engage the parties in order to secure agreement on the date and venue for the next meeting of the Commission, which has played an important role by offering a unique forum for the

parties to discuss directly security and military issues. I therefore appeal to both sides to reconsider their respective positions, cooperate with UNMEE and renew their participation in the Commission.

III. Status of the Mission and related issues

11. As of 9 January 2007, the total strength of the UNMEE military component stood at 2,285, comprising 2,004 troops, 56 headquarters staff and 225 military observers (see annex I for details).

12. The decision by Eritrea not to cooperate with my Acting Special Representative, Azouz Ennifar, has further severely constrained the operations of the Mission's senior management. Meanwhile, the Eritrean authorities continued to arrest and detain locally recruited staff of UNMEE, usually on the grounds that the staff members did not fulfil national service obligations. As of 8 January, five staff members remained in detention. In addition, upon being released from detention, some of these staff members have been warned by the Eritrean authorities not to return to their employment with the Mission. Those arrests and detentions have affected morale among the local staff. They contravene the model status-of-forces agreement, and I therefore wish to appeal to the Eritrean authorities to comply with their obligations in this regard.

13. In a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 3 January 2007 (S/2007/4), the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations made a number of comments on the special report issued on 15 December 2006 (S/2006/992), including with regard to the appointment of the Acting Special Representative, the movement of EDF troops into the Temporary Security Zone and the restrictions imposed on UNMEE.

14. For its part, Ethiopia continued to enforce customs regulations on the Mission's supplies. The authorities still require UNMEE to present a manifest of the items meant for shipment into the country, despite the status-of-forces agreement signed by the Government and the United Nations.

IV. Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission

15. In its twenty-second report, contained in annex II of the present report, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission reiterated its decision announced in its statement of 27 November 2006, and indicated its willingness to provide assistance in emplacing the boundary pillars during the coming 12 months, if the Parties jointly so requested and provided assurances of cooperation and security. So far, neither party has responded to the statement. Meanwhile, the Commission is closing its field office in Addis Ababa and reducing its related activities.

V. Mine action

16. On 24 December 2006, a mine incident occurred on the Shilalo-Sheshibit road in Sector West when a vehicle struck an explosive device. However, the militia commander at Shilalo would not permit UNMEE staff to travel to the scene to conduct an investigation. In addition, two separate mine incidents occurred on 1 and

10 January. In the first incident, an Ethiopian army truck hit an anti-tank mine at Badme, in Sector West, killing one soldier and injuring three others. There were no injuries reported in the second incident; however, the Ethiopian army water truck, which was travelling between Badme and Dembe Gadamu, was damaged when it also hit an anti-tank mine. UNMEE is investigating those incidents.

17. Since September 2006, the Mission's demining assets cleared some 2,200,000 square metres of land and almost 1,200 kilometres of road. The Mission's explosive ordnance disposal teams, which operate on both sides of the Temporary Security Zone, destroyed 375 unexploded ordnance items, two anti-tank mines and four anti-personnel mines.

18. UNMEE also conducted mine-risk education activities in Sectors West and Centre, with over 1,300 people of different age groups benefiting from these activities. The Mission further carried out routine mine-awareness briefings for newly arrived military observers, force contingent members, and civilian and military staff.

VI. Human rights

19. UNMEE continued to monitor and investigate various cross-border incidents that relate to the conflict, including cases of abduction between the two countries. The Mission also observed an increase in illegal border crossings.

20. UNMEE also monitored the repatriation of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals, which took place under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Some 650 Ethiopians living in Eritrea were voluntarily repatriated via the Mereb Bridge, while 18 Eritrean nationals were similarly repatriated from Ethiopia. It is essential that both parties ensure that the repatriations remain voluntary and that they are carried out in a proper and dignified manner.

21. In the meantime, UNMEE has been receiving increasing requests for the implementation of technical cooperation projects and human rights awareness activities that target the most vulnerable groups in Ethiopia. The Mission has obtained funds from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement capacity-building projects in Ethiopia and Eritrea. UNMEE also intends to launch two human rights workshops on the treatment of prisoners and detainees, as well as violence against women. Workshops are also planned on the rights of internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as training for police officers and prosecutors.

VII. Humanitarian developments

22. My Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Kjell Magne Bondevik, visited Eritrea from 13 to 18 October 2006 and met with President Isaias Afwerki, other senior Government officials, the United Nations country team, as well as representatives of civil society and the donor community. The visit allowed Mr. Bondevik to assess the overall humanitarian situation and to follow up on issues raised during his previous visit in April 2006.

23. The humanitarian situation in Eritrea continued to be a source of serious concern, as high malnutrition rates persist among the many vulnerable communities, exceeding emergency levels in some regions. Access to basic social services remains inadequate, particularly in rural areas, where almost 70 per cent of the population lack access to health services and some 40 per cent are without safe drinking water. Eritrea's production of cereal remains below the estimated total requirements of 500,000 to 600,000 tons, and the country therefore largely depends on commercial imports. The lack of strategic dialogue and coordination between the humanitarian organizations and the Government has prevented a more comprehensive analysis of the severity and scope of the humanitarian situation in the country. Moreover, the Government's decision to integrate the relief food provided by the World Food Programme into its new cash-for-work strategy has further strained relations with the donor community.

24. Since the last progress report, Eritrea has ordered two more international non-governmental organizations, the International Rescue Committee and Samaritan's Purse, to leave the country. The two organizations were informed that their operational and work permits would not be valid as of 15 November 2006. The reason given to both charities was that the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, signed by the Government of National Unity of the Sudan and the Eastern Front on 14 October 2006, had rendered cross-border operations redundant. With this latest departure, the total number of international non-governmental organizations operating in Eritrea has dropped from 37 in early 2005 to 10 at present. The remaining non-governmental organizations continue to face operational difficulties, including restrictions in obtaining travel permits, conducting assessments as well as delays in government approval of programmes.

25. In the meantime, humanitarian partners continued to respond to the needs generated in Ethiopia by the nationwide floods of August and September 2006. The United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, donors and private individuals have responded to a joint Government and Humanitarian Partner Flash Appeal requesting US$ 27.1 million. To date, more than US$ 18.5 million has been donated. New and unprecedented flooding also took place in Ethiopia's Somali region. To address this natural disaster, two helicopters were provided by the Humanitarian Air Service of the World Food Programme to distribute essential non-food and food items to the populations unreachable by road. On 23 November, the Government and the United Nations launched a joint emergency flood appeal requesting a total of some US$ 7 million to meet emergency non-food requirements, as well as medium-term rehabilitation needs for the flood-affected areas of the region. In addition, a joint national coordination committee, headed by the Federal Ministry of Health, has been established to combat malaria and waterborne diseases.

26. Meanwhile, UNMEE continued to facilitate humanitarian operations in the Temporary Security Zone, providing agencies with information on the humanitarian situation inside the buffer zone, which is vital for conducting assessments and responding to the needs of resettled internally displaced persons. Furthermore, ongoing demining activities by UNMEE, including continuous route clearance, have been critical for maintaining access to the Zone by humanitarian agencies.

HIV/AIDS activities

27. UNMEE continued to provide active induction training to all incoming military and civilian personnel, and to conduct awareness sessions to contingent members, in an effort to encourage group behaviour change. UNMEE also offers voluntary counselling and testing services for all Mission personnel, although some contingents are deploying with national voluntary counselling and testing capabilities. The Mission also facilitated HIV/AIDS-awareness training workshops for members of Eastern Zone women and youth associations in the Ethiopian border town of Adigrat.

Conduct and discipline

28. The current UNMEE budget includes provision for setting up a dedicated Conduct and Discipline Unit in the Mission. The process of appointing core staff members to this unit is already in progress. In the meantime, the office of my Acting Special Representative continued to exercise oversight responsibility for conduct and discipline issues, working in close collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Two cases of reported serious misconduct that emerged during the reporting period have been investigated; findings and recommendations are expected shortly.

VIII. Public information

29. Recent developments in the Mission area led to a growing local demand for information on the work of UNMEE, in general, and on the peace process, in particular. To ensure an accurate dissemination of information to the general public, the Mission increased the publication of information in key local languages, such as Amharic and Tigrinya. The Mission's three outreach centres located in Addis Ababa, Adigrat and Mekelle continue to be a major outlet of information on the activities of the Mission and the United Nations in general.

30. Meanwhile, Radio Eritrea has suspended the weekly broadcasts of the UNMEE radio programme because of the failure of its transmitter network. To ameliorate the situation, UNMEE has engaged both Radio Ethiopia and the Eritrean authorities in an effort to secure airtime for the programme on their respective national FM channels. Meanwhile, the short-wave broadcasts of the programme continued over the Horn of Africa through satellite transmission.

IX. Financial aspects

31. By its resolution 1710 (2006) of 29 September 2006, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNMEE until 31 January 2007. The General Assembly, by its resolution 61/248 of 22 December 2006, reduced the appropriation of $174,679,200 previously authorized for the maintenance of UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 to $137,385,100. Thus the total amount appropriated to the Special Account for UNMEE for the period has been adjusted to $144,943,700 (gross) inclusive of $6,243,100 for the support account for peacekeeping operations and $1,315,500 for the United Nations Logistics Base. Of

this amount, $91,118,900 has been apportioned among Member States for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006.

32. By the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided to apportion the amount of $53,824,800 among Member States for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007 at a monthly rate of $8,970,800, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission. Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of UNMEE beyond 31 January 2007, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2007 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly. As at 30 November 2006, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNMEE amounted to $64.8 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $2.2 billion.

X. Observations

33. The ongoing dangerous stalemate in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea remains a source of very deep concern. Not only does the overall situation remain unsettled, but it has also continued to worsen over the last month, with neither party showing any sign of willingness to take the necessary steps to break the current impasse. The potential for this situation to deteriorate further or even to lead to renewed hostilities is real, especially if it is allowed to continue indefinitely. The current impasse is a serious source of instability for the two countries as well as the wider region, taking into account, in particular, the recent developments in Somalia.

34. Ethiopia's refusal to implement — fully and without preconditions — the final and binding decision of the Boundary Commission remains at the core of the continuing deadlock. I therefore strongly urge the Government of Ethiopia to comply with the demand of the Security Council, expressed in resolution 1640 (2005) and reiterated in resolution 1710 (2006). Full implementation of the latter resolution remains key to moving forward the demarcation process and to concluding the peace process.

35. The continued and increasing presence of Eritrean troops and heavy military equipment inside the Temporary Security Zone has brought the armed forces of the two countries into immediate proximity to each other, seriously heightening tension in many parts of the border area. This situation represents a serious challenge to the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 and, in particular, to the integrity of the Zone. I strongly urge the Government of Eritrea to withdraw its troops and military equipment from the Temporary Security Zone.

36. As mentioned on numerous previous occasions by my predecessor as well as the Security Council and individual Member States, the numerous restrictions imposed by Eritrea on the operations of UNMEE are counterproductive and unjustifiable. I wish to remind the Eritrean leadership that UNMEE was established, and remains deployed, at the invitation of the two Governments. I therefore call on Eritrea to lift all restrictions, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 1640 (2005) and 1710 (2006).

37. The statement of the Boundary Commission of 27 November 2006 gave the parties an additional 12 months to proceed with the emplacement of boundary pillars and thus to complete the demarcation process, which is long overdue. I sincerely hope that both sides, and Ethiopia in particular, will seize this opportunity to proceed with demarcation in accordance with the Boundary Commission's decisions. The United Nations, and I personally, stand ready to assist them, in order to achieve the full implementation of the letter and spirit of the Algiers Agreements at the earliest possible opportunity.

38. Clearly, while the establishment of an internationally recognized border is essential, it is not sufficient to create sustainable peace and reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The two Governments need to take the political decision to put the conflict behind them, for the sake of their own people, and move forward in a number of other areas that would help them to normalize relations. In this connection, I encourage the international community, especially individual Member States with close relations with the two Governments, to help them take the necessary steps to implement the Boundary Commission's decisions, establish a dialogue and restore good-neighbourly relations that would allow both countries to concentrate all their energies on social and economic development. In the meantime, in view of the continued contribution of the peacekeeping operation to the maintenance of the ceasefire and the overall stability of the region, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMEE for a further period of six months, while keeping in mind the recommendations contained in my special report of 15 December 2006.

Annex I

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea: military contributions as at 12 November 2006

Country	*Military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff*	*Total*	*National support elements*
Algeria	8			8	
Austria	2			2	
Bangladesh	9		6	15	
Bolivia	5			5	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8			8	
Brazil	5			5	
Bulgaria	5			5	
China	7			7	
Croatia	4			4	
Czech Republic	2			2	
Denmark	4			4	
Finland	5			5	
France	1			1	
Gambia	3		1	4	
Germany	2			2	
Ghana	12		2	14	
Greece	3			3	
Guatemala	2			2	
India	8	970	12	990	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3			3	
Jordan	8	827	12	847	
Kenya	10	174	4	188	
Kyrgyzstan	4			4	
Malaysia	7		3	10	
Mongolia	5			5	
Namibia	4		3	7	
Nepal	5			5	
Nigeria	7		2	9	
Norway	4			4	
Pakistan	5			5	
Paraguay	4			4	
Peru	3			3	
Poland	6			6	
Romania	5			5	
Russian Federation	3			3	

Country	*Military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff*	*Total*	*National support elements*
South Africa	5			5	
Spain	3			3	
Sweden	3			3	
Switzerland	2			2	
Tunisia	3		3	6	
Ukraine	5			5	
United Republic of Tanzania	8		2	10	
United States of America	2			2	
Uruguay	5	33	3	41	
Zambia	10		3	13	
Total	**225**	**2 004**	**56**	**2 285**	

Annex II

Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission: twenty-second report on the work of the Commission

1. This is the twenty-second report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 1 September to 20 December 2006. The previous report covered the period from 21 May to 31 August 2006.

2. On 29 September 2006, the Security Council adopted resolution 1710 (2006), which called upon:

- Eritrea to reverse its restrictions on UNMEE
- Ethiopia to "accept fully and without delay the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) and take immediately concrete steps to enable, without preconditions, the Commission to demarcate the border completely and promptly"
- Both Parties to cooperate fully with the EEBC, stressing that the "primary responsibility for the implementation of the Algiers Agreements" lay with the Parties
- Both Parties to "implement completely and without further delay or preconditions the decision of the EEBC and to take concrete steps to resume the demarcation process"
- Both Parties to provide UNMEE with necessary assistance in the performance of its duties, including assisting the EEBC

3. The Commission, taking note of that resolution, wrote to the Parties on 6 October asking them to inform the Commission "of the actions which each proposes to take to comply with the Council's specific requests". To date, neither Party has replied to this request, although the Commission has received a letter from Eritrea, dated 22 October 2006, reiterating that "the way forward lies in the full and unequivocal acceptance of the EEBC Award by Ethiopia, and in the expeditious implementation of the Award on the basis of the Algiers Agreement and the Commission's 8 July 2002 Demarcation Directions".

4. The Commission also took note of the "Press Statement on Ethiopia-Eritrea" delivered by the President of the Security Council on 17 October 2006, especially the expression of the Council's "unwavering commitment to the peace process, including the full and expeditious implementation of the Algiers Agreements and implementation of the final and binding decision of the EEBC".

5. The Commission, in paragraph 9 of its twenty-first report, indicated that it would schedule a further meeting in November 2006 "to examine the situation as it then stands and, in particular, how in the circumstances it may best carry forward the demarcation of the boundary".

6. On 8 November 2006, the Commission sent a letter of invitation to the Parties to attend a meeting on 20 November 2006 at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague "to consider the further procedures to be followed in connection with the demarcation of the boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia". Both Parties declined the Commission's invitation: Ethiopia by letter dated 13 November 2006; and

Eritrea by letter dated 16 November 2006. In its letter, Ethiopia made a number of criticisms of the Commission which the Commission felt ought not to be left unanswered. Accordingly, on 27 November 2006, it sent a detailed response which it has asked the United Nations Secretary-General to publish as a Security Council document, so that it may receive the same circulation as the Ethiopian letter. As that has not yet appeared, a copy is attached hereto (see enclosure).

7. Notwithstanding the absence of the Parties, the Commission met at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on 20 November 2006 in order to consider how best to advance the demarcation. At this meeting, the Commission received the views of a number of the Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement.

8. Following the meeting, the Commission issued a Statement dated 27 November 2006. In this Statement, the Commission set out its approach to demarcation in light of the obstacles the Parties had placed in its way. It identified "the location of points for the emplacement of pillars as a physical manifestation of the boundary on the ground"[a] by means of precise coordinates determined with the assistance of high resolution aerial photography and modern techniques of image processing and terrain modelling in the Central and Western Sectors and field assessment in the Eastern Sector. These locations have been marked on 1:25,000 scale maps prepared in the Cartographic Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

9. In paragraph 22 of its Statement, the Commission said:

> "As the Commission evidently cannot remain in existence indefinitely, it proposes that the Parties should, over the next 12 months, terminating at the end of November 2007, consider their positions and seek to reach agreement on the emplacement of pillars. If, by the end of that period, the Parties have not by themselves reached the necessary agreement and proceeded significantly to implement it, or have not requested and enabled the Commission to resume its activity, the Commission hereby determines that the boundary will automatically stand as demarcated by the boundary points listed in the Annex hereto and that the mandate of the Commission can then be regarded as fulfilled. Until that time, however, it must be emphasized that the Commission remains in existence and its mandate to demarcate has not been discharged. Until such time as the boundary is finally demarcated, the Delimitation Decision of 13 April 2002 continues as the only valid legal description of the boundary."

10. In paragraph 28 of its Statement, the Commission further stated that "During the coming 12 months, the Commission will remain willing to provide assistance in emplacing the boundary pillars if the Parties jointly so request and provide assurances of cooperation and security".

11. Neither Party has as yet responded to the Statement. Until the Parties request the Commission to provide assistance, the Commission is closing its Field Office in Addis Ababa and reducing its activities in the Cartographic Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

12. Finally, the Commission regrets that Ethiopia, despite repeated reminders since 21 May 2006, has still not paid the contribution to the work of the Commission presently due from it, as required by Article 4 (17) of the Algiers Agreement. The

[a] Statement of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, para. 20. Available at www.pca-cpa.org.

Commission has, therefore, been obliged to request access to the United Nations Trust Fund for Eritrea and Ethiopia in order to meet its commitments.

(*Signed*) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission
21 December 2006

Enclosure

Attachment to paragraph 6 of the twenty-second report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission: letter dated 27 November 2006 from the President of the Commission to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

I have received and read with care your letter to me of 13 November 2006. Although it is not usual for international tribunals to respond to criticisms made by a discontented party, it is not possible for the Commission to leave your observations without some response — the more so as you have already given much publicity to your letter and have requested that it should be published as a Security Council document. I do not reply in full detail because the Commission's understanding of the facts is set out in the Statement which it is issuing today, of which I attach a copy. Nonetheless, with great respect, I have to tell you that, insofar as your letter purports to set out facts, those that it states are, regrettably, in significant detail wrong or highly selective.

At the outset, as a striking example of misleading selection, I refer to the manner in which, towards the end of your letter, you refer to the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 17 October 2006. You quote the whole of that statement with the exception of the highly relevant final paragraph bearing on the conduct of Ethiopia. This reads as follows: "Members of the Security Council call on Ethiopia to implement fully the EEBC decision". This was not the first time that the Security Council has called on Ethiopia to fulfil its obligations in respect of the Demarcation Decision. Nor is Ethiopia's failure to respond positively to such a call the first time that it has disregarded the call of the Security Council. It is a matter of regret that Ethiopia has so persistently maintained a position of non-compliance with its obligations in relation to the Commission.

You again put forward Ethiopia's contention that the Commission's procedure "does not conform with international practice and does not allow sufficient consideration of anomalies and impracticabilities as between the lines set out in the April 2003 Delimitation Decision and the realities on the ground". (The Decision was actually rendered a year earlier than the date you give.) The Commission has met this contention in detail in its Observations of 21 March 2003. There the Commission explained that it was not empowered by the Algiers Agreement to vary the line of delimitation that it had determined on the basis of the evidence before it. Indeed, the Commission is expressly prohibited from doing so by the provision in the Algiers Agreement that "the Commission shall not have the power to make decisions *ex aequo et bono*" (Article 4 (2)). The prohibition of recourse to *ex aequo et bono* can only mean that the Commission must implement what it finds to be the strict legal position in accordance with the terms and procedures clearly prescribed by the Parties.

You complain of the conduct of Eritrea, saying that it "has refused to heed either the Commission's requests or the Security Council's demand" and you observe that "under the circumstances, I cannot imagine that appeasement of Eritrea is the appropriate step". There is no basis for the suggestion that the Commission has been appeasing Eritrea. Nor can such a suggestion, however unfounded, obscure the fact that Ethiopia has itself been in breach of its obligations under the Algiers Agreement in several important respects. It is sufficient here to mention one serious

one, namely, Ethiopia's continued failure to comply with the Commission's Order of 17 July 2002 requiring Ethiopia forthwith to arrange for the return to Ethiopian territory of those persons in Dembe Mengul who were moved from Ethiopia pursuant to an Ethiopian resettlement programme since 13 April 2002 and to report to the Commission on the implementation of this order by 30 September 2002. Ethiopia has made no report to the Commission. A more detailed account of Ethiopia's lack of cooperation and breaches of its obligations is set out in today's Statement of the Commission.

You state that "it is impossible to understand or accept the Commission's plan to issue a Demarcation Decision, notwithstanding the clear understanding by the Parties and Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement that the final demarcation would be impossible without a cooperative process with a view to understanding and dealing with anomalies and impracticabilities". A "cooperative process", it is true, is important if it can be achieved. What you do not mention is the fact that Ethiopia has by its conduct on many occasions repeatedly obstructed the Commission's field personnel and prevented them from carrying out the necessary investigations in the field and made a "cooperative process" impossible. Ethiopia's actions in this respect preceded the more recent episodes in which Eritrea's conduct, largely by making it impossible for UNMEE to provide necessary assistance to the Commission's field personnel, has contributed to the impasse.

The Commission does not contest the assertion that its approach to demarcation by way of setting out coordinates indicating precise Boundary Points was not part of its original intention. Its intention had been to go on the ground and, in consultation and cooperation with the Field Liaison Officers of the Parties, to establish the locations for the emplacement of boundary pillars. Despite repeated initiatives on the part of the Commission supported by requests of the Security Council that the Parties cooperate, Ethiopia, for one, has made this approach impossible. The Commission cannot be left in limbo as a body charged with a function that the very Parties creating it have prevented it from performing.

One of the elements in Ethiopia's complaints is that Eritrea is guilty of the same obstruction. Eritrea's non-cooperation with the Commission only really developed after Ethiopia insisted that the boundary should be altered to meet with what Ethiopia chose to call "anomalies and impracticabilities", despite the clear statements of the Commission that this could not be done. When asked to confirm its continuing acceptance of the Delimitation Decision, Ethiopia repeatedly qualified its position by saying that it wished negotiations to take place regarding such "anomalies and impracticabilities". Eritrea's insistence on strict adherence to the terms of the Delimitation Decision was a position which it was entitled to adopt in accordance with the Algiers Agreement.

You place great emphasis on "the need for dialogue and support by neutral bodies to help the two Parties make progress in demarcation and normalization of their relations". Of course, "the normalization of relations" is a desirable objective but that is a matter that falls outside the scope of the Commission's mandate, which is solely to delimit and demarcate the border. The scope for "dialogue" is limited to what is necessary between the Commission and the Parties to further the actual process of demarcation on the ground. There is no room within the framework of the Algiers Agreement for the introduction of "neutral bodies" into the demarcation process.

You ask "Why has the Commission abruptly and without notice chosen to abandon the process for demarcation embodied in its rules, instructions and decisions?" The answer is that the Commission has been unable to make progress, initially, because of Ethiopia's obstruction and, more recently, because Eritrea has followed a similar course. Matters cannot be left in this uncertain condition. Something must be done. You will see from today's Statement of the Commission attached to this letter that the Commission has not abandoned the idea of pillar emplacement. In that Statement the Commission again provides the Parties with an opportunity to cooperate with it in the pillar emplacement process. Only if no real progress is made during the next 12 months will the Commission resort to demarcation by coordinates alone to identify boundary point locations.

You complain about the Commission's "engagement" with the Security Council. You disregard the fact that the Commission has since its inception been "engaged" with the Security Council by reason of the Commission's quarterly reports to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which have then been annexed by him to his own reports to the Security Council and have formed the basis of numerous references to the situation and requests to the Parties by the Security Council. Moreover, the Security Council has repeatedly shown its concern with the process of demarcation by the adoption of a number of resolutions calling upon Ethiopia, and more recently Eritrea also, to comply with the terms of the Algiers Agreement.

Your letter seeks to blame the Commission for Ethiopia's failure to meet its obligations under the Algiers Agreement. Such blame is entirely misplaced. The truth of the matter appears to be that Ethiopia is dissatisfied with the substance of the Commission's Delimitation Decision and has been seeking, ever since April 2002, to find ways of changing it. This is not an approach which the Commission was empowered to adopt and is not one to which the Commission can lend itself.

I regret that it has been necessary to address you in such direct terms but your letter — and the publicity that you have given it — have left me with no alternative. It would be unacceptable for an international tribunal to be exposed to the kind of criticism which you have lodged without replying to it in necessary detail.

(*Signed*) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission